

## Amonate Wastewater Project Groundbreaking (January 28, 2005)

Amonate, Virginia

I am pleased to visit the community of Amonate today to participate with Tazewell County officials in the groundbreaking ceremony to construct a public wastewater system for the community's residents.

The total cost of construction for the new water system is \$1,114,875. Of this total amount, nearly \$1 million is being provided through federal sources. At my request, a \$712,600 federal appropriation was approved by Congress and is being provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State and Tribal Assistance Grant program. In addition, \$215,000 is being provided in the form of a federal Community Development Block Grant which is being administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Additional funding is being provided from Tazewell County in the amount of \$187,275 to construct the new wastewater system.

One of my primary goals in representing Southwest Virginia is to work with our local governments to obtain federal funding for our region's water and wastewater facilities. The construction of this infrastructure is an essential step in our efforts to encourage economic development throughout our region and to improve the quality of life for Southwest Virginians.

Amonate's current sewer system is inadequate. Wastewater from the community's homes flows without treatment into a branch of the Dry Fork River which flows through the community.

This straight pipe discharge has significantly degraded the quality of the stream. Residents, their pets, and local wildlife have easy and open access to the contaminated stream which increases the potential for health problems related to the unfiltered sewage.

The new sewer system for which we are breaking ground today will serve 47 households in the Amonate community as well as the Amonate Freewill Baptist Church and the Trinity Full Gospel Church.

To complete the project, 5,100 feet of wastewater lines will be installed along Route 624 . In addition, 47 individual septic tanks will be installed to serve the 47 households in the community, and a sand filter wastewater treatment facility will be constructed. The Tazewell County Public Service Authority will maintain the new system, and it is expected that construction for the new system will be completed during the fall of this year.

I would like to take the opportunity of these remarks to recognize several individuals whose hard work has been instrumental in this success.

Donny Lowe, Chairman of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors; other members of the Board; Bill Rasnick, Chairman of the Tazewell County Public Service Authority and County Supervisor for the community of Amonate; Jim Spencer, Director of the PSA and Tazewell County Administrator; are all to be commended for their leadership and foresight in the development of this project.

Dahmon Ball, also a member of the Tazewell County PSA deserves our recognition for his able assistance in promoting this project and for his dedication to improving the lives of Tazewell County residents.

I also want to thank the Reverend Roger Barnette, Pat Barnette and Carol Hankins, all Amonate residents, who spearheaded this project for the community. Without their hard work, we would not be celebrating this significant success today.

Finally, I would like to recognize my District Administrator, Laura Lee, for persistence and persuasive efforts in support of this project.

The Amonate wastewater project for which we are breaking ground today is an example of what can be achieved when citizens and government officials at the local, state and federal levels work together and cooperate in aid of a common purpose. For that cooperation and successful work in providing a new wastewater system for the residents of Amonate, I want to commend all here and offer a special congratulations to the Tazewell County residents who will be receiving the new service.